

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

In the Office Action dated April 25, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 16-24, 26-34 and 36-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,115,544 issued to Mueller (hereinafter "*Mueller*"). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-24, 26-34 and 36-44 are patentable over *Mueller*.

Claim 16, as amended, reads:

In a computing apparatus, a method of operation by a computer aided design (CAD) application, the method comprising:
generating a failure indication upon encountering a failure during an operation performed for a user design ; and
automatically facilitating a user in determining a location of the failure **and determining a solution** for the failure.

Thus, in the present claim, the method requires facilitating a user in *determining a solution* for the failure.

In contrast, *Mueller* merely provides assistance in finding a location of a failure, not in determining a solution to the failure. For example, as pointed to by the Examiner, "The user may select one error message data entry in the Error List and thereby cause the portion of the source code containing the error to be displayed for editing", column 2, lines 13-15. While providing an aid in determining a location of an error in a user's source code, *Mueller* does not facilitate determining a solution to the error in the user's source code. Thus *Mueller* cannot be said to teach **automatically facilitating a user in determining a solution** for the failure.

Mueller clearly teaches that in response to displaying the location of the error, the user will be able to edit the source code to correct the error. This implies that by locating the error, also, *Mueller* facilitates determining a solution.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is patentable over *Mueller*. Claims 26 and 36 contain substantially the same limitations as those of claim 16. As a result, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 16, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 and 36 are patentable over *Mueller*.

Claims 17-24, 27-34 and 37-44 depend from claims 16, 26 and 36 respectively, thus inheriting the elements of those claims. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-24, 27-34 and 37-44 are patentable over *Mueller*.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

In the Office Action dated April 25, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 25, 35 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Mueller*. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25, 35 and 45 are patentable over *Mueller*.

As part of the basis for the Examiner's rejections of claim 16, 26 and 36 the Examiner relies upon the arguments discussed in the previous section that *Mueller* discloses all of the elements of independent claims 16, 26 and 36. The rejections of dependent claims 25, 35, and 45 are derivative of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection. As discussed above, *Mueller* does not teach the basic elements upon which the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is based. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25, 35 and 45 are patentable over *Mueller*.

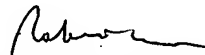
Conclusion and Epilogue

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-45 are in condition for allowance. Thus, early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed in duplicate for fee processing purposes.

Respectfully submitted,
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